

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 176 (Bermudez) without my signature.

This bill inappropriately interferes in the collective bargaining process ongoing in the Los Angeles Superior Court by statutorily converting limited-term law clerks into permanent employees after 180 days of employment. There may be times when it is necessary to employ a law clerk longer than 180 days for a special case or project, while at the same time there is not a sufficient long-term volume of work to require a permanent appointment. In addition, the courts may be unable to fund all limited-term employees as regular employees creating an unfounded liability for the Los Angeles County court that could be detrimental to other court operations.

Finally, the passage of this bill undermines the collective bargaining process by encouraging bargaining units to come to the Legislature to determine the outcome versus following the process set forth in law requiring negotiation between the parties locally.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger